

Announcing June's SPOT Award Winners

Michael McMahon

I am again nominating Michael McMahon for the SPOT award. He is a very deserving and dedicated employee. Besides the attached supporting documentation (SEE BELOW) which still applies, this month when Michael went to inspect x-ray machines at the New Orleans Police Department, he discovered a licensing situation with ramifications affecting the FBI and police departments state-wide. He has relentlessly pursued several avenues in his quest for further information to properly resolve this investigation. Some people may have been intimidated when dealing with special agents from the FBI and various police department officials; however, Michael has persevered with quiet equanimity. He continues to do an excellent job on a daily basis and, I think, should be recognized with the SPOT award for his devoted service to the department.

In addition to this, on a monthly basis, Michael has consistently taken the initiative to coordinate assignments with other inspectors in order to ensure the attainment of our inspection goals. This is a great help to his immediate supervisor, Dwayne Stepter. - Judy Schuerman

I would like to also endorse the nomination of Michael McMahon for the SPOT award. I have seen him grow from a very quiet, curious inspector into a leader in the Surveillance group. He has also taken over part of the Enforcement duties for Radiation and has demonstrated his adaptability and willingness to lead by example. - Ann Troxler

In my observations of Michael McMahon I have noted his performance of his duties consistently exceed my expectations. His high level of dedication and professionalism sets the standard for his peers to meet. He is an all around asset to this division and agency. He is most deserving of this award. -Jeff Meyers



Michael McMahon receiving his SPOT Award

Kathy Huddle

I would like to nominate Kathryn Huddle, Environmental Scientist III, Permit Compliance Unit, Water Enforcement Division, Office of Environmental Compliance, for a SPOT award. Kathy is an invaluable asset to the Department and is a leader within the Water Enforcement Division. Kathy is highly active and consistently demonstrates superior knowledge of her work subject matter and shares her knowledge with others. She answers questions from both the regulated community as well as other LDEQ staff with professionalism and courtesy. Kathy is always quick to volunteer for additional work duties and special projects.

In addition to her regular work activities, Kathy teaches DMR submittal at Sanitary Wastewater Compliance Assistance Training (SWAT School) throughout the state. Within the PCU she also serves as QNCR Coordinator to generate reports and keep up with deadlines to maintain compliance with LDEQ commitments to EPA. Kathy has also helped to develop and update many of the policies and procedures used in the PCU.



Kathy Huddle receiving her SPOT Award

As a leader, Kathy serves as a mentor and training leader for new employees within the PCU. As a result, new employees who have trained under Kathy have come up to speed with complex work activities quickly and easily. Kathy serves as an amazing role model for her co-workers and others.

Most recently, Kathy has been a driving force behind a successful migration to a new EPA National Database and release of an online DMR submittal program on June 22. During national conference calls with EPA, Kathy is a well known representative of LDEQ that contributes to discussions and suggests solutions to problems regularly. She has been the primary person to assist others within the unit and provide training on how to enter data and build retrievals to access information. Kathy can always be depended upon to respond to challenges with a positive attitude and commitment to excellence.

Daniel Burgard

I would like to nominate Daniel Burgard for the DEQ Employee Spot Award. Danny is an Environmental Scientist II and works in the Surveillance Division of the Office of Environmental Compliance, Capital Regional Office (CRO). Danny has been with the Department for only 3 years but is considered to be one of the most knowledgeable air inspectors. He has made it a point to learn by reading, researching, and consulting with Serugudi Mani, the DCL for air in the CRO. Danny is typically the lead inspector when the "Hawk" camera is used for surveillance activities. He was tasked with conducting debris site assessments in St. James and Assumption Parishes following Hurricane Gustav and will continue to conduct these assessments until the sites are closed. Danny is also an accredited lead inspector. Even with the extra duties associated with Hurricane Gustav, not only did Danny complete all of his required assignments (Title V and ERP) this fiscal year, he completed all assigned small source inspections and assisted others when circumstances beyond their control prevented them from completing assigned tasks. Danny helped ensure that CRO goals were met and he did it without complaint. He is a team player. Danny's work is always complete and accurate; his turn around time for reporting can be surpassed by few employees. He does not let things sit on his desk. He initiates complaint investigations timely and does a thorough job.

Any one of these items mentioned above could qualify Danny for the SPOT award. However, I would like to nominate him based upon his efforts that were instrumental in bringing years of complaints concerning a local facility that conducts sandblasting and painting to a resolution. While it was a team effort with all inspectors from the CRO involved, Danny took the lead and was able to collect the evidence needed to support the claims of off-site impact that ultimately lead to resolution of the issues. The sand blasting and painting operations at the facility are intermittent making it very difficult for an inspector to document off-site impact. By the time a complaint



Daniel Burgard receiving his SPOT Award

is received and a response initiated, the activity has been completed and therefore, no visual observations can be made to support the allegations. In June of 2008, Danny collected samples from vehicles that appeared to have been impacted by paint overspray. Sample results verified this however, couldn't confirm the source. Also in June of 2008, Danny was able to document with pictures off-site impact from sand blasting. He was also able to document with pictures that the facility was not following their Best Management Practices. This evidence, along with the new regulations governing sand blasting activities, provided enforcement the tools they needed for action, the facility took notice and implemented corrective actions. Danny's diligence and dedication was vital to the resolution of this chronic problem. Daniel Burgard is certainly deserving of the DEQ Employee Spot Award. If additional information is needed, please contact me at 219-0068.

Tammy Shaffer

I would like to nominate Ms. Tammy Shaffer, HR Manager, for a SPOT Award. In addition to Tammy's excellent customer service attributes; Tammy consistently works towards making our HR programs more efficient through analyzing existing policies and procedures and suggesting ways in which to improve. The most recent change that Tammy suggested and implemented is the revision of 2 of HR's most used documents; the Personnel Action Request and Request to Fill forms. Tammy updated both of these documents incorporating changes due to the implementation of LA Careers and other Civil Service rule changes. Both forms were multi-copied forms which required them to be completed in handwriting or by a typewriter. Tammy was able to create these documents, with assistance from IT, into an electronic format and made them accessible to our customers. In addition, to making this procedure more efficient and user friendly, it will result in a cost savings for HR as we will no longer need to order the forms.



Tammy Shaffer receiving her SPOT Award